

Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

Eligible Expenses

- Engineering services for design, structural feasibility analysis, and cost estimate preparation;
- Surveying, soil sampling, completion of elevation certificate, title search, deed recordation fees, legal and/or permitting fees, project administration, and construction management;
- Disconnection of all utilities;
- Building of a foundation so that the lowest floor is at the BFE or higher if required by local ordinance or FEMA;
- Physical elevation of the structure and subsequent lowering and attachment of the structure onto a new foundation;
- Construction of a floor system that meets minimum building code requirements when the existing floor system cannot be elevated or is not appropriate for the new foundation;
- Reconnecting utilities and extending lines and pipes as necessary and elevating all utilities and service equipment;
- Debris disposal and erosion control;
- Costs for repair of lawns, landscaping, sidewalks, and driveways if damaged by elevation activities;
- Construction of a utility room above the BFE only if there is no existing space within the house for this purpose or there is no alternative cost-effective way to elevate the utilities;
- Elevation of existing decks, porches, or stairs;
- Construction of new stairs, landings, and railings to access the elevated living space per minimum code or local ordinance;
- Construction of ADA-compliant access facilities when an owner or a member of the owner's family has a permanent physical handicap and a physician's written certification. Only one ADA-compliant access is allowable for funding unless specified otherwise in applicable State or local codes (for more information on ADA, see <http://www.ada.gov/>). If ramps are not technically feasible, a mechanical chair lift may be installed;
- Documented reasonable living expenses (except food and personal transportation) that are incurred while the owner is displaced by the elevation construction;
- Abatement of asbestos and lead-based paint; and
- Filling basements with compacted clean fill.

Ineligible Expenses

- Elevating structures that were not in compliance with current NFIP standards at the time of construction;
- Costs related to building additions or auxiliary structures;
- Construction of new decks or porches;
- Any improvements for purely aesthetic reasons unless required by the EHP compliance review;
- Exterior finish on the exposed foundation of the elevated building, unless required by EHP compliance review and or local code; and
- Additional landscaping for ornamentation beyond what existed on the site prior to construction of the project (e.g., trees, shrubs).
- Costs to replace or repair utility service components, which are undersized, inadequately designed, or unsafe unless required by code (except utility rooms noted as eligible costs).
- Landscaping for ornamentation (e.g., trees, shrubs);
- Decks and garages not included as part of the foundation system;
- All construction activities not specifically noted in this guidance and not specifically approved by FEMA in advance; and
- Site remediation of hazardous materials.